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NTIS Privatization : The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act

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NTIS Privatization:

The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act

The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 is again before the Congress, this time as H.R. 4848. There have been some modifications to the text of the bill. The 60 day plant closing provision has become a separate piece of legislation. (*Editor's note, STN: When you receive this issue, this legislation should be law.*)

The language prohibiting further privatization of NTIS is still in the bill. Other sections provide for programs to fight illiteracy, to improve the instructional programs in science and foreign languages in secondary schools, and to promote technology and information transfer. The attached sheet lists specific provisions of the bill which will strengthen our educational system and national economy if enacted into law.

Please write or call your Senators and Congressmen and ask that they support or continue to support this bill.

9. Provides for education, training, and retraining of industrial workers, especially workers in small business concerns.

10. Provides for planning, establishing and operating centers of international business education at institutions of higher education.

11. Establishes a National Trade Data Bank to provide the private sector, researchers, and educational institutions efficient access to economic and trade data collected by the Federal Government.

12. Provides for a consortium of manufacturers, national laboratories, and academic institutions for the purpose of conducting research and development in the area of semiconductor technology.

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The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (H.R.3)

1. Prohibits privatization of the National Technical Information Service. See House Report 100-576, Section 5163(h), pages 364-365.

2. Redesignates the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with greatly enhanced responsibilities for research, improved manufacturing technology, and more efficient systems for information transfer.

3. Creates an Office of Extension Services to assist state and local government, business and industry in acquiring information about Federal laboratory research results.

4. Establishes Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing Technology whose purpose is to make available to private industry new manufacturing technology developed by NIT. Centers must be affiliated with a nonprofit institution.

5. Establishes an Advanced Technology Program to stimulate development of commercially viable products from new federally sponsored research.

6. Establishes domestic mechanisms to acquire and disseminate foreign-developed technology.

7. Provides for the establishment of private sector international trade development centers.

8. Provides for the improvement of classroom instruction in mathematics, science, engineering, technological education, education in foreign languages, and for increased educational capabilities for gifted children and youth.

SLA Scholarship Program Deadline October 28, 1988

Three \$6,000 SLA Scholarships for graduate study in library or information science

One \$6,000 Affirmative Action Scholarship for graduate study in library or information science

One \$1,000 ISI Scholarship for beginning doctoral candidates in library science, information science, or related fields.

One \$1,000 Plenum Scholarship for a doctoral candidate with an approved dissertation topic.

Applications may be requested by writing to:

Susan McQuillin, Manager
Membership Development and Marketing
Special Libraries Association
1700 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009